



The Arc Minnesota
800 Transfer Road, Suite 7A
Saint Paul, MN 55114-1414

T 651-523-0823 1-800-582-5256
F 651-523-0829
www.arcmn.org

Achieve with us.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Mike Gude, Communications Director; 651-604-8066 (work);
651-756-9364 (cell); mikeg@arcmn.org

Date: September 16, 2016

Judge Frank, Judge Thorson, Commissioner Tingerthal Honored for Work on Olmstead Plan

The Honorable U.S. District Judge Donovan Frank, the Honorable U.S. Magistrate Judge Becky Thorson, and Minnesota Housing Finance Agency Commissioner Mary Tingerthal will receive the Luther Granquist Systems Change Award from The Arc Minnesota. All three will receive their award at The Arc Minnesota's Awards Banquet on Friday evening, September 23, 2016 at the Shoreview Community Center in Shoreview, Minnesota.

Judge Frank, Judge Thorson, and Commissioner Tingerthal each played a pivotal role in the development and approval of Minnesota's Olmstead Plan. This plan is the state's blueprint to maximize the inclusion and independence of Minnesotans with disabilities in their communities. All three individuals worked to ensure that the document that was eventually approved created a strong commitment for an inclusive future for people across the state.

The settlement of a court case with the Minnesota Department of Human Services in December 2011 included Judge Frank's requirement that the state develop an Olmstead Plan for people with disabilities. There were many drafts of the plan over several years. Judges Frank and Thorson and Commissioner Tingerthal were leaders in pushing for the creation of measureable goals and comprehensive work plans that would result in a document that would be effective in improving people's lives. Their efforts paid off, when a draft of the plan was submitted to the U.S. District Court and approved on September 29, 2015. Since then the plan has been amended to include sections about assistive technology and the prevention of abuse and neglect of people with disabilities.

In addition to their work on the Olmstead Plan, Judges Frank and Thorson have been instrumental in creating a website on disability law and in other efforts to educate the public and the Minnesota Bar Association's members about disability rights.

The Arc Minnesota's September 23rd banquet honoring the three individuals will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the Shoreview Community Center, 4580 Victoria Street North in Shoreview, Minnesota. You can order tickets for the event by contacting Mike Gude at 651-604-8066 or mikeg@arcmn.org.

The Luther Granquist Systems Change Award honors an individual or organization that creates significant system change through individual, legal, or public policy advocacy. It is named after an attorney with the Minnesota Disability Law Center who was a successful advocate for people with disabilities, both in moving people from state institutions to the community and in improving education services.

The Arc Minnesota's Awards Banquet is part of the organization's annual state conference. This year's conference, "A Working Life," is also being held at the Shoreview Community Center on Saturday, October 24, 2015. The all-day event will include workshops on best practices, success stories, and one-on-one assistance and advice to help more people with disabilities gain competitive employment. The conference is geared to people with disabilities, their family members, and direct care staff who support them. For more information, go to www.arcmn.org

The Arc Minnesota is a statewide, non-profit organization that promotes and protects the human rights of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and actively supports their full inclusion and participation in the community throughout their lifetimes. It is supported by members, partners, and 12 affiliated chapters statewide. For more information, go to www.arcmn.org

#